

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 STRE-00 NSCE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01
SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /095 W
-----038843 131741Z /41

R 131708Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0827
USIA WASHDC
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07942

USEEC
PASS WHITE HOUSE FOR STR
FOR IEU:COHEN, IOP:HILL AND THURBER

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, US
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL PRESS COVERAGE OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSS
PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: BRUSSELS 7840

1. JULY 13 AGENCE EUROPE EDITORIAL ON INCREASING
PROTECTIONIST TRENDS IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NOTED THAT
QTE THERE HAS BEEN A SORT OF PSYCHOSIS ALMOST EVERYWHERE
WHICH PROMPTED SOME PEOPLE TO SQUARELY QUESTION THE
MANDATE WHICH THE COUNCIL GAVE THE COMMISSION FOR THE
TOKYO ROUND... AND WE HEARD (GAULLIST MEMBER OF EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT) MR. COUSTE SAY IN LUXEMBOURG THAT, IF
NECESSARY, THIS MANDATE SHOULD BE REVISED. NOW, AFTER
THE TALKS-- TERMED VERY FRUITFUL AND THOROUGH-- BETWEEN
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THE COMMISSION AND MR. STRAUSS, MR. HAFERKAMP STATED
THAT THE COMMISSION CAN CONDUCT THE GATT NEGOTIATIONS
(IN FOUR SUCCESSIVE PHASES) ON THE BASIS OF THE MANDATE
IT RECEIVED FROM THE COUNCIL IN 1975. A RENEGOTIATION
OF THIS MANDATE WOULD DOUBTLESS AMOUNT TO TOLLING THE
KNELL OF THE TOKYO ROUND UNQTE.

2. JULY 13 HANDELSBLATT REPORT OF PRESS CONFERENCE WAS SUBTITLED QTE CARTER'S TRADE EXPERT SHOWS CONFIDENCE IN BRUSSELS UNQTE. ARTICLE GENERALLY FOLLOWED THOSE REPORTED REFTEL, BUT ADDED TWO POINTS: IT STATED ORIGIN OF TOKYO WAS QTE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY USA IN AUGUST 1971 UNQTE AND SAID GUNDELACH-BERGLAND TALKS THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON QTE SHOULD INDICATE VALIDITY OF STRAUSS' STATEMENT THAT THE USA DO NOT WANT TO QUESTION THE COMMUNITY'S FARM POLICY UNQTE.

3. JULY 12 LA STAMPA REPORTED EC AND US BOTH HAVE HAD TO RESTRICT IMPORTS RECENTLY, BUT COMMISSION AND CARTER ADMINISTRATION KEEPING THE LIBERAL TRADE FAITH. LA STAMP NOTED THAT FRANCE FAVORS MORE RESTRICTIVE POLICY, EVEN AT COST OF SLOWING DOWN MTN.

4. JULY 12 CORRIERE DELLA SERA REPORT PARALLELED THAT IN LA STAMPA. CORRIERE SAID AGRICULTURE WILL BE TOUGHEST AREA IN US-EC NEGOTIATIONS AND ADDED, CURIOUSLY, THAT WHILE EC WANTS TO KEEP NEGOTIATIONS ON INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS SEPARATED FROM THOSE ON AGRICULTURAL TARIFFS, US OPPOSES THIS SEPARATION, AS STRAUSS AGAIN MADE CLEAR IN JULY 11 PRESS CONFERENCE. (COMMENT: USEC PAO TALKED TO CORRIERE CORRESPONDENT, GUATELLI, TODAY. GUATELLI UNDERSTANDS THAT AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY WILL BE NEGOTIATED SEPARATELY, IN PARALLEL; BUT HE CLAIMS THAT SINCE US UNCLASSIFIED

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INSISTING THAT FINAL PACKAGE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS CONTAIN AGRICULTURAL AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL CONCESSIONS, THERE ARE REASONS TO FEAR FAILURE OF MTN. PAO REVIEWED WHAT STRAUSS HAD SAID, TOLD GUATELLI THAT THE WORLD AGRICULTURAL SITUATION AND, TO SOME EXTENT, US POLICY HAS EVOLVED, AND WE WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY IN COMING DAYS AND WEEKS TO SEE HOW PROSPECTS FOR MTN HAVE IMPROVED. GUATELLI THANKED US FOR CONVERSATION, HOPED WE WERE RIGHT, AND SAID BRUSSELS JOURNALISTS WOULD BE SOUNDING GUNDELACH OUT AFTER HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON TALKS THIS WEEK.)

5. JULY 12 IL SOLE-24 ORE FOUND STRAUSS' OPTIMISM QTE SURPRISING UNQTE. THIS REPORT SAID IN EC COMMISSION CIRCLES IT WAS NOTED THAT JAPANESE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF EXPEDITED TIMETABLE AGREED ON BY STRAUSS AND COMMISSIONERS. IL SOLE EMPHASIZED STRAUSS STATEMENTS OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION DETERMINATION TO PREVAIL IN VAT COUNTERVAILING CASE, ALSO THAT US NOT SEEKING STRUCTURAL CHANGE OF CAP IN MTN.

6. LEMAITRE ARTICLE IN JULY 13 LE MONDE PORTRAYS STRAUSS AS TAKING CHARGE OF MTN AND MOVING NEGOTIATIONS TO RAPID

CONCLUSION. QTE TO JUDGE BY HIS (STRAUSS') PEREMPTORY
AND DEFINITE BEHAVIOR DURING PRESS CONFERENCE HELD JOINTLY.
WITH MR. HAFERKAMP -- COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT FOR
EXTERNAL RELATIONS -- ONE CAN HOWEVER ASK TO WHAT DEGREE
HIS INTERLOCUTORS HAD THE LEISURE TO INTRODUCE SOME
NUANCES IN THE (JULY 11US-EC) DISCUSSION UNQTE. LEMAITRE
SAW SAFEGUARDS FOR EC INTERESTS IN MTN PROVIDED BY
INERTIA OF EC INSTITUTIONS AND BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS'
FINAL AUTHORITY. LOOKED AT CLOSELY, JULY 11AGREEMENT
WAS SIMPLY ON TIMETABLE. LEMAITRE TERMED STRAUSS
STATEMENTS ON US POSITION VIS-A-VIS CAP QTE REASSURING
UNQTE. IN CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH, LEMAITRE CLAIMED US HAS

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SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /095 W
-----038871 131742Z /42

R 131708Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0828
USIA WASHDC
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07942

VIOLATED GATT RULES FOR 30 YEARS (TRADE ACT SPECIFICALLY
CITED AS BEING CONTRARY TO GATT). FRANCE WISHES TO GET
THROUGH MTN WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE TO FRENCH INTERESTS.
THEREFORE, WHY NOT MOVE QUICKLY, AS THE US DESIRES?--
PROVIDED MTN CONCRETE OBJECTIVES REMAIN MODEST. HINTON

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TAGS: ETRD, US, EEC, (STRAUSS, ROBERT)
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